

# Parcel A is Suitable for Residential Use

The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site does not include Parcel A, because no site-related contamination remains on Parcel A. Based on information gathered since 1991, EPA is confident Parcel A is suitable for work, recreation and residential use. Results from recent radiological surface scanning done by the California Department of Public Health (see page 3) is additional evidence that people are not being exposed to radiological hazards at Parcel A. The Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (successor agency to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency) will continue to safely redevelop Parcel A, working with their development partners.

# The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site

The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site (Superfund site) is in the Bayview neighborhood of San Francisco. This area was home to a naval shipyard from 1939 to 1974. In addition, the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory and its predecessors operated there from 1946 to 1969. The Navy's activities contaminated shipyard soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater.

Under current Superfund site conditions and use, the nearby community is not being exposed to site-related contamination. Today, the Navy is cleaning up chemicals and radionuclides left from its shipyard and lab. The Superfund site is divided into parcels labeled B through G. After the Navy completes cleanup work in each parcel, it will transfer the parcel to the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure.

The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the Superfund site. EPA and our California state regulatory agency partners oversee and enforce Navy compliance with Superfund and state requirements. EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment. EPA is committed to protecting the Bayview Hunters Point community and ensuring that the Navy addresses contamination at the Superfund site.



# Radiological retesting at the Superfund site

Today, the Superfund site includes six parcels, labeled B through G. Again, the Superfund site does not include Parcel A.

To perform much of the past radiological cleanup work at the Superfund site, the Navy contracted with Tetra Tech EC Inc., (TTEC) a subsidiary of Tetra Tech Inc. In 2012, the Navy noticed irregularities in certain TTEC soil confirmation samples, prompting TTEC to review the work and complete additional cleanup. In 2016, additional concerns surfaced regarding TTEC's cleanup work, and the Navy, EPA and the state began investigations into the quality of TTEC's data.

EPA and the state independently reviewed a Navy report of TTEC's radiological work. The agencies' review informed the Navy about widespread patterns of potential falsification, data manipulation and/or data quality concerns.

In 2018, the Navy began to develop work plans to do radiological retesting at all areas where the data are unreliable. EPA and the state continue to provide regulatory oversight of these work plans and related fieldwork. If these retesting efforts find site-related radiological contamination, the Navy will complete additional cleanup actions. (For additional information on the radiological retesting, please refer to the Navy's website noted in the "For More Information" section below.)

In September 2020, the Navy began the radiological retesting fieldwork for soils. During ongoing cleanup work, EPA expects the Navy to monitor the air and manage dust safely. These activities will protect SF Shipyard occupants, nearby Bayview-Hunters Point community members, and nearby workers, including artists and others currently working on the former naval shipyard. EPA and our state regulatory agency partners will oversee this work.

# **Background on Parcel A**

# The Navy used Parcel A mostly for residences, administrative offices and an officers' club

An in-depth evaluation of the history at the former shipyard has shown the Navy used Parcel A mostly for residences, administrative offices and an officers' club. The Navy's 2004 Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) and other investigations present all available historical information regarding radiological activities. Preparing the HRA involved reviewing historical records, maps and photographs; reviewing previous work performed; and interviewing former Navy shipyard workers.

Since the early 1990s, the Navy performed routine site cleanup activities at Parcel A. These include investigating and removing underground storage tanks, sand blast grit and soil contaminated with pesticides, petroleum, metals and PCBs.

# The redevelopment of Parcel A began in 2006

The Navy transferred Parcel A to the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure in December 2004. Before transferring the property, the Navy completed all testing and cleanup required by the Superfund program. In addition, developers removed all Navy-era utilities, including sewer lines and maintenance holes. The developers also excavated (dug-out) most of Parcel A's surface soil to prepare the land for redevelopment. They moved about 400,000 cubic yards (or 35,000 large dump truck loads) of soil from the hilltop area of Parcel A to level the land. All the excavated soil remains on Parcel A and has been used as fill in areas with lower elevations or stockpiled for future use. The developers put in new utilities, streets, sidewalks, building foundations and added additional soil for landscaping.

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#### Parcel A Redevelopment Timeline 2004 - 2010· Removal of Navy-era structures and utilities, including sewer lines and maintenance holes and mass grading Removal of Parcel (soil movement) to modify the land surface to support 1995 A from the EPA's list development Record of Decision of Superfund sites \* Layout of new utilities, streets, sidewalks and building (National Priorities foundations, as well as landscaping and building park facilities List) 1000 2000 1997 1991 2004 2013 2018 - 2019Shipyard \* Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) Outdoor Site investigation Construction \* Final Finding of Suitability to Transfer Redevelopment radiological and cleanup work of buildings surface scanning begins Plan and parks at \* Property transferred to the Office of and indoor dust the SF Community Investment and Infrastructure wipes Shipyard development begins

## Data reliability concerns at the Superfund site do not impact Parcel A

The concerns we have about data reliability does not impact Parcel A residents. The only radiological work at Parcel A performed by Tetra Tech EC Inc., was at Building 322. This building is now demolished and removed. EPA did radiological surface scanning by hand in the area where it was located, and we found no radiological contamination in the building footprint.

#### The state concluded there are no radiological health and safety risks at Parcel A

In 2019, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) completed a radiological health and safety surface scan of Parcel A. This was done in response to public concerns and the requests of the City and County of San Francisco and Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The goal of CDPH's scan was to ensure residents are not exposed to unsafe levels of radiation.

CDPH found no radiological health concerns throughout Parcel A.

CDPH did find Potasium-40, which is a naturally-occuring radioisotope normally found in the environment (in plants and animals). The levels of Potassium-40 found at Parcel A are not a health or safety concern. CDPH found one radiological object: a deck marker (for more information, see the "Deck marker found on Parcel A" text box).

Radiological surface scanning is a thorough and effective way to measure radiological activity over large areas. In 2018, CDPH performed scanning in all accessible, outdoor areas in Parcel A. CDPH's scanning activities included the use of handheld instruments and instruments that were towed on a trailer behind a small vehicle ("towed array"). The areas scanned included the soil stockpiles and the undeveloped portion of Parcel A west of the SF Shipyard development. CDPH also scanned the old Navy keel blocks found throughout the SF Shipyard development. Additionally, CDPH collected radiological dust wipe samples in over 70 residential homes or artist studios in Parcel A in 2019.

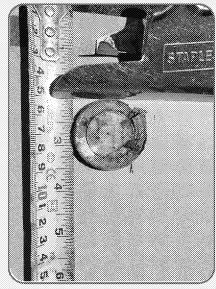
For more information on CDPH's radiological health and safety surface scan and dust wipe samples, please refer to CDPH's website noted in the "For More Information" section below.

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# Deck marker found on Parcel A

On September 11, 2018, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) found a radium-containing naval deck marker during its radiological surface scan efforts. A deck marker is roughly the size of a silver dollar. They were typically used by the Navy to light passageways aboard ships. Radium was used inside deck markers so they would illuminate (or glow) at night.

The deck marker was found at the bottom of a hillside, in an undeveloped area near the intersection of Galvez Avenue and Donahue Street on Parcel A. It was buried under approximately 10 inches of soil. Radiation readings made before the deck marker was removed showed low exposure to radiation at the surface directly on top of the deck marker. Under EPA oversight, the Navy unearthed and removed the deck marker. Radiation readings after removal of the deck marker showed no remaining contamination in the soil.



Unearthed deck marker found on Parcel A

# For more information on ...

## The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site:

- Visit the Navy's website: https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac\_bases/california/former\_shipyard\_hunters\_point.html
- Join the Navy's email distribution list by sending an email to info@sthpns.com
- Call the Navy's site information line at (415) 295 4742
- Contact the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator, Derek Robinson: (619) 524 6026 or derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil

## EPA's oversight role of the Navy's cleanup work on the Superfund site:

- Visit EPA's website: www.epa.gov/superfund/hunterspoint
- Reach out to EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), Yolanda Sanchez: (415) 972 3880 or sanchez.yolanda@epa.gov

## CDPH's radiological health and safety scan on Parcel A:

- Visit CDPH's website: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/RHB-Environment/Hunters-Point-Naval-Shipyard-Parcel-A-1-Survey.aspx/
- Reach out to CDPH at RHBHuntersPointParcelAScan@cdph.ca.gov

## The redevelopment on Parcel A or the larger area:

- Visit the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII) website: https://sfocii.org/hunters-point-shipyard-and-candlestick-point
- Reach out to OCII's Assistant Project Manager, Kasheica McKinney: (415) 749 2422 or kasheica.mckinney@sfgov.org